

NEW RIVER CHANNEL

Grand Avenue to Skunk Creek and Paradise Shores



Peoria, Arizona
October 29, 2003

Introduction

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County (District), in partnership with the City of Peoria, is improving New River from Grand Avenue to Skunk Creek. A segment (approximately 800 feet) of New River adjacent to the Paradise Shores subdivision will also be improved. Bank protection, channelization, trails, and landscape enhancements will be consistent with adjacent corridors.

Project Objectives

The primary goal of the New River Project is to protect the surrounding developments through the containment of the Standard Project Flood (SPF), while respecting the existing native riverine ecosystem by preserving and enhancing the landscape through strategic ecological design. Many factors have altered the river's environment, including natural occurrences and the growth and development of adjacent areas. Urban corridors like this one can serve as an important:

- **Circulatory Network**
- **Preservation / Conservation Area**
- **Multi-use Corridor**
- **Recreational and Educational Opportunity**
- **Open Space Corridor**
- **Regional Trail System**
- **Historical and Cultural Opportunity**

Project Theme / Mission Statement

A Connected Riparian Desert. This theme originates from the basis that we are **connected** to the river in many ways. The **connectivity** stems from the basis of our civilization that was formed around thriving riverine ecosystems. These rivers provided the basis for a connected life and community that has expanded beyond the confines of the river banks to the civilization we see today. This theme will allow us to **reconnect** to the **riparian desert** in multiple ways. The **connectivity** includes multi-use trails that connect into and become a part of the environment, educational zones utilized to re-familiarize the public with the history and importance of the river ecosystem, and the re-establishment of **riparian desert habitats** that flourished and thrived throughout these corridors. This theme will become a part of the urban ecological fabric in the metropolitan Phoenix area by fostering and promoting rivers as a place to be connected to. The theme of ***A Connected Riparian Desert*** will be blended into the ecological, hydrological, recreational, and cultural aspects of the project.